



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 24, 1999

H.R. 70 **Arlington National Cemetery Burial Eligibility Act**

As introduced on January 6, 1999

H.R. 70 would codify many current regulations governing eligibility for burial in Arlington National Cemetery and interment in its columbarium. The bill would allow certain close family members of eligible veterans to be buried in the same grave without the need for a waiver, and it would prohibit burial in other special cases. Under the bill, future memorials or markers must commemorate service in the armed forces. H.R. 70 would require the Secretary of the Army to maintain a public register that would describe the basis for the eligibility of each individual buried in Arlington National Cemetery after January 1, 1998. The Secretary would also be required to publish a pamphlet describing eligibility requirements for burial.

CBO estimates that the costs of implementing H.R. 70 would not be significant. Most categories of veterans and family members covered by the bill's eligibility criteria are already eligible under current regulations. The bill would grant eligibility to family members who are presently ineligible for burial at Arlington National Cemetery, but because these individuals are small in number and have tended to receive waivers, the bill would not lead to a significant increase in the number of burials at the cemetery. CBO estimates that the costs of producing the register and pamphlet would be negligible. Because the legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The estimate was prepared by Charles Riemann. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.